

Tim Madigan in China

Buttolph - 26,000 Menus

Crossroads

Volume 17

2007

Mansfield University

Off the beaten
path...

Dushore's Racing
Outhouses!

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Letter from the editor:

Let's just get this out of the way first: creating a magazine is hard work.

Fortunately, we were blessed with a handful of great talents coming together to put together this year's edition of Crossroads magazine. The title of this publication is "Off the Beaten Path." I'd like to think that this describes the writers, editors and publishers of this magazine as well.

First, let's start with Paul Otruba. Paul is nowhere near your typical student. He's a lifelong resident of Mansfield who came back to take classes. Paul graduates this spring, at the same ceremony as his son. He has a great wealth of knowledge of the area, and has no problem sharing it with anyone who wants to lend an ear.

Kate Keough is a junior who splits her time between Mansfield and her hometown of Owego, New York. Her article on non-traditional students is eye-opening, and is especially well done since she herself is somewhat of a non-traditional student. It's a great piece that brings an interesting subject to a better light.

Moving on, we find Michelle Landis. She's a communications senior, with hopes of being a television reporter. Her keen insight as a woman entering the world of sports talk was the basis for her story "Encroachment," and her creative imagination spawned the short story "The Battle for Dreamland." Be sure to watch for her on a television near you.

Brittany Serafini was the advertising editor for Crossroads, and she performed at her post quite well. She kept track of all of the advertising which you see in this magazine, handled all the cheques, and also found the time to write "Overheard at MU", a lighthearted piece about odd statements that were, hence the title, overheard at MU. It's a must-read.

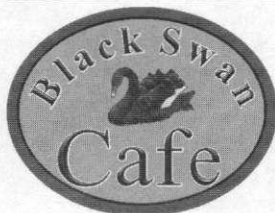
Talking to Toby Motyka, you might get the sense you're talking to a famous sportscaster. One day, that may be the case. However, this time he stuck strictly to Mansfield life, and handicap-accessibility on campus. His story is a great account of what it's like to have a physical disability and attend Mansfield University.

Dan Ryan's story on outhouse racing is an informative piece on one of Sullivan County's favorite yearly events. You really have to read the article to believe it. He was also the main designer for the cover, and I happen to think he did a great job.

Of course, no college class is complete without someone in charge. That "someone" for us was Mr. Dan Mason. Without him... well... let's not think about that. Thanks to Mason for all of his hard work and guidance throughout this project. His story on Dr. Madigan's trip to China isn't that bad, either. Everyone at Crossroads appreciates his guidance, as well as his quick (and sometimes quite dry) wit.

We all sincerely hope that you enjoy this magazine. Remember, as you walk through life, don't be afraid to, every now and then, get off the beaten path.

-Andrew Ostroski



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Experience the Wilds just minutes from Mansfield University

by Paul Otruba



State and federal lands surround Tioga, Hammond, Hill's Creek and Cowanesque Lakes to the north of Mansfield. Hill's Creek Lake is seven miles from the campus, and Tioga Lake is just three miles away. State record fish have been caught in both lakes.



"Huck and Jim-style" river rafting becomes high adventure using recycled barrels and a little creativity to fashion a vessel. The Susquehanna Watershed contains tens of thousands of miles of streams, lakes and rivers waiting to be explored by the willing.

A 3000-acre donation of forested lands in the Fallbrook area of the Armenia Mountains in Tioga County, Pennsylvania is in the northeast section of the Pennsylvania Wilds, the headwaters of the Tioga River, a tributary of the Susquehanna River.

Governor Edward G. Rendell said, "Adding this important piece of Pennsylvania's great outdoors to the Tioga State Forest will mean future generations will be able to enjoy it."

Local environmental groups, such as the Tioga River Watershed Reclamation Projects Inc., the Upper Susquehanna Riverkeeper and Boy Scout Sea Scout Ship 2001 have invested over 10,000 hours in environmental work in this area. These organizations see this land transfer to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources as recreational land use opportunity to open the Fallbrook Tioga River valley and the Landrus - Babb Creek section of the Pennsylvania wilds to picnicking, sight seeing and potentially adding a hundred miles of trails for recreational use that will link the Pine Creek, Hills Creek State Park, Mid-State trail and the Tioga Hammond and Cowanesque Lakes. Currently the 20,000 acres of the Tioga State Forest includes the Pine Creek Gorge Natural Area, The Black Ash Swamp Natural Area, the Reynolds Spring Natural Area, the Asaph Wild Area and now the Fallbrook - Landrus area.

Mansfield University is just 10 miles from one of the most extensive wilds areas on the east coast of the United States with access to thousands of miles of trails that tie into the Appalachian Trail. Imagine the awesome natural wonder of the two million acres of the public lands of the Pennsylvania Wilds in your backyard - 2,067 wild trout streams, 1,100 miles of designated trails, 99 boat-launch sites, 1,800 campsites. Opportunities abound to photograph elk, bear, bobcat, turkey, deer, eagles and raccoon with hundreds of species of plants, animals, fish and reptiles to study. The potential for economic gain for local tourism, for hands on education in the sciences, and the opportunity for recreation for students, parents and faculty at Mansfield University are just minutes away.

Fallbrook and Landrus, ghost towns now, were the home to thousands during the reign of coal mining in Tioga County. This area of long abandoned railroad beds invites exploration through the falls at Fallbrook, the switchbacks at Dublin, and the battleship shaped rocks of Landrus. Mansfield University is a gateway for exploration to this "off the beaten path" area for the pathfinder armed with a compass, map and spirit of adventure.

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Balloonists like to take advantage of the updrafts at dawn. The Pennsylvania Wilds, where the Susquehanna River meets the Chemung Subbasin of the Susquehanna, is one of the wildest parts of the state. The Endless Mountains form ridges from Liberty to Wellsboro. Hikers can run across bobcat and bear, fox and deer, turkeys and bald eagles. Panthers used to inhabit this area, and locals might try to convince an outsider they still do.



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“Encroachment?”

Why is it so hard to break into the “man’s world” of sports talk, and what can women do about it?

by Michelle Landis

To many, sports form a language, culture and passion of their own. To those who are foreigners in the world of sports and ‘sports talk,’ this culture can be confusing, and sometimes even intimidating. Both men and women engage in conversations centered on sports. These conversations can leave the neophyte sports enthusiast in a daze. For those who have little or no interest in sports or who are entering this new world for the first time, there is hope. Many veterans of ‘sports talk’ will guide the new student who enters their culture for the first time.

Mansfield University sophomore Kay Barrett is interested in sports and has a particular passion for tennis but says she does not have a great knowledge of the culture and often feels overwhelmed around tennis vets. Kay feels that sports talk is mainly a ‘guy thing,’ but she would like to be able to take part in this culture as well.

Kay shares this story: “Last year I went over to my brother Mike’s house for my nephew’s birthday. The living room was packed with all my guy relatives. I was squeezed between my brother and his brother-in-law while they watched a Pittsburgh Steelers football game. They were loud and kept jumping up and shouting at the TV and each other. I had no idea what was going on. ‘Line back?’ ‘Tailback?’ Who knows? After twenty minutes of one team running and another team running,

all I could make out was that the Steelers were losing and the other team had apparently made a touchdown. My brother was getting in a horrible mood, so I went to kitchen to sit with my grandma; at least I could understand Bingo and physical therapy.”

Although her story is lighthearted and comical, Kay says she often finds herself in that daze while her brother shouts at little people inside the television. She says she would like to know more about football, but her brother rolls his eyes when she asks questions about the game. “How is it he can know all the terms and stats of football and organize his own fantasy football teams, but he can’t remember my birthday?” Kay said. She’s not alone in her frustrations.

Mansfield student Rachel Boyll believes guys want sports to be strictly ‘guy talk.’ However, she says there is hope for the lady entering the world of sports. “If you really pay attention, it’s not hard to understand what’s going on in the world of sports,” Rachel said.

Rachel says that sometimes guys are shocked when they discover her passion for sports. “Is dropping to one knee and proposing considered treating me differently? I’ve had that response as well as the opposite,” Rachel said. “Sometimes guys will be excited to know I love sports. They’ll answer any questions I have and seem shocked at what I know. I think they

love it. Others get offended and act macho, telling me how wrong I am, or how stupid the team is that I enjoy watching. It gets on my nerves but I just laugh and enjoy the game.”

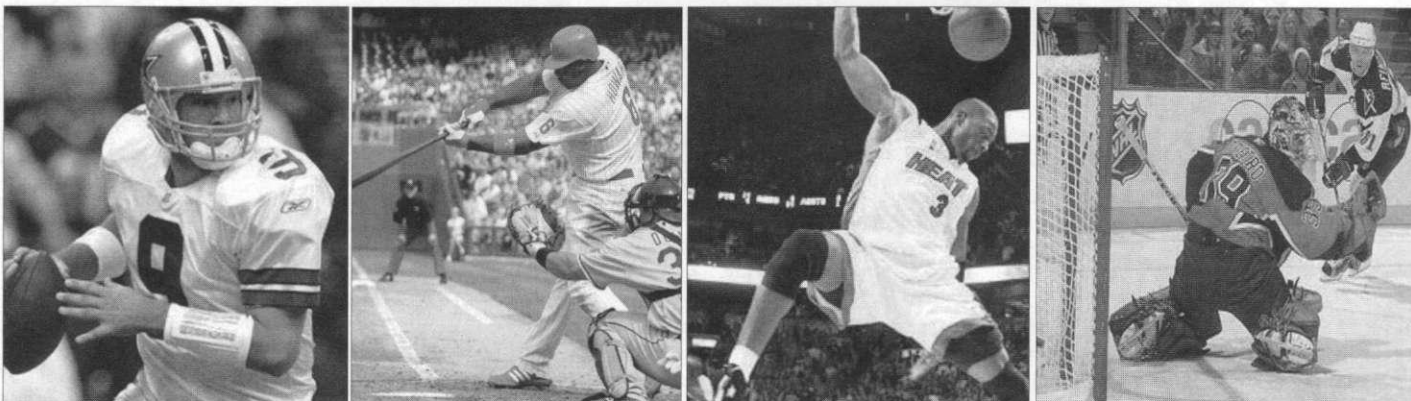
Rachel, who developed her passion for sports from her mother and the other women in her family, says that some of her lady friends don’t understand sports and tend to “doze off” when she enters into the world of sports talk with them. She does know a few female fans who are like her and “can go off about sports like men.”

Rachel has some advice for women who want to ‘go off about sports like men:’ “Ask questions!!”

“I was surprised how much I learned by asking questions. It helps to pay attention to the commentaries and the game itself. Things fall into place quickly that way,” Rachel said. “I am thinking of getting into fantasy football with no clue as to how to do it. My guy friends have been answering all my questions and even asking me to join their leagues!”

Greg Reedy, photography editor for the Ridgway Record in Ridgway Pennsylvania, agrees that sports talk is mainly guy talk. He says that, since most of the sports talk hosts are male and the majority of their audiences tend to be male, they use guy talk on their shows.

He says it is important for those entering into the world of sports and sports talk for the first time to be knowledgeable.



"If you can show guys you know your stuff, you will have a better chance of getting accepted into their world," Greg said. "If you get into sports and start showing you haven't done your homework about what you're talking about, people won't take you as seriously."

Greg says that although he rarely runs into a woman who is knowledgeable about sports, his interest is perked when he finds one who can speak the language. He says that it is easier to talk to someone when he can find common ground. For many guys, including Greg, this common ground includes the world of sports.

Do men who have little knowledge of the language also suffer in the world of sports?

Gregory Orr, photography editor for Mansfield University's student newspaper, says that he has encountered obstacles of his own due to his lack of detailed sports knowledge. He says being a male surrounded by sports culture was a little awkward. "It was almost as if I grew up on a different planet," Gregory said.

Gregory's interest and knowledge of sports has grown as a result of being in a college environment in which sports are important.

There are other men, like Mansfield student Richard Schmid, who have little interest in sports and don't care to learn more. "I have passive knowledge of sports. I understand the games for the most part and have favorite teams," Schmid said. "I don't bother to follow most sports, because they bore me most of the time."

Guys like Richard are rare. Greg Reedy says he assumes guys will "have a solid, global knowledge of rules, history, teams and

players" of sports and be able to contribute to a conversation.

Danita Fox is the women's swim team coach at Mansfield University. Growing up with five brothers and a father who was a former college football player helped fuel her passion for sports. She refers to her own communication style as "cut 'n-dried" and finds her communication with men is different from her communication with women.

Coach Fox was "one of the guys" growing up, which, she says, "was not always a good thing." A large part of this could be attributed to a communication style ("cut n' dried") that lends itself to sports talk. Fox says that communicating with her female athletes and other women has taught her "women want more words to feel good and appreciated."

"I don't speak much about sports with my friends because they don't enjoy the topic," Fox said. Despite this, Fox mentioned that she doesn't find much of a difference speaking with men as opposed to women within college athletics about sports.

The key for those entering the world of sports for the first time with a feminine style of communication (emotional, "needing more words," etc.), is to remember that patience is important. Sports enthusiasts are passionate about their obsession, but the basics of the games are fairly 'cut n' dried.' Start simple, learn as much as you can, ask questions and don't be overwhelmed by details. It takes time.


Coach Fox offers her own tidbit to the 'sports talk' neophyte: "Be humble around the veterans, and keep it balanced and fun."

Greg agrees that humility is an important thing for the sports newbie. "It can be obvious if someone opens their mouth and says something that either is untrue or just doesn't make any sense," Greg said. "If someone is caught in this situation, the best thing to do is try and follow along with the conversation, picking up little points about the sport. Sometimes blending into the crowd is better than making sticking out for the wrong reasons."


So remember, sports neophytes, be humble, pay attention, do your homework, ask questions and, most importantly, have fun.

"If you can show guys that you know your stuff, you will have a better chance of getting accepted into their world."

-Greg Reedy




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Mansfield celebrates the birth of night football and the Fabulous 1890s every fall

by Paul Otruba

Mansfield celebrates The Fabulous 1890s every year with a festival on the last weekend in September.

The Fabulous 1890s weekend starts with a motorless parade through Mansfield. Horses draw wagons, bands march and re-enactors show off their costumes, but motorized vehicles are not allowed.

Mansfield University and the Greater Mansfield Area Chamber of Commerce jointly sponsor the event. It started in 1992 on the centennial of the first football game in history played under electric lights.

Mansfield Seminary (now Mansfield University) and Wyoming Seminary met in Smythe Park during the Great Mansfield Fair on September 28, 1892. Some twenty thousand people came to the fair. Only a portion of them stayed for the game in 1892.

The reenactment of the game, on the other hand, is one of the highlights of the modern festival. The teams are co-ed. Students, staff and faculty make up both teams.

By today's standards, the game was savage, resembling more of a backyard pick-up game than an organized event. Players linked arms and plowed down the field, knocking down opposing players and protecting the ball carrier. Defensive men had to hurl themselves into the "flying wedge" or try to crash through the flanks to stop the advance.

The re-enactment ends early, as did that first night when the electric light was mowed down during a play and the game was called because no one could see to play.

For those fans who last that long, the Fabulous 18902 Weekend ends with fireworks.

The Mansfield Seminary reenactors had to practice to get the flying wedge just right and to make sure no one got hurt.





Norma Brunges was one of the dance hall girls who serve drinks in the saloon on the midway. Strolling banjo pickers, pluckers and strummers add to the flavor of the 1890s. The midway has lots of games and live entertainment, all designed to transport the visitor a century into the past. Pies are judged. Ducks race. Pugilists punch. Crafts and food are displayed. Professor Marvel hawks his tawdry wares. Kids play soccer. Old folks play Bingo. Middle-aged men barbecue chicken and daredevils set off fireworks.



Balloonists bring their hot air balloons to Smythe Park. Some offer rides to the public. Others just want to show off their colorful bags of hot air. Balloonists not only eschew the beaten path, they don't even respect flight paths. They can be counted on to wander over the mountains, each following his or her own muse.



A visionary president brought Mansfield State Teacher's College into the modern era of education

by Paul Otruba

Dr. Lewis W. Rathgeber was President of Mansfield State Teacher's College, later Mansfield State College, from 1957 to 1963. He was a 5' 11", 250 lb. dynamic whirlwind of energy and change who worked most weekends and many 18 hour days to turn his vision of what Mansfield State Teacher's College could be into reality. His efforts transformed the 685 student teachers college into a 3000-student liberal arts college by 1969 with the completion of his planning program.

Dr. Rathgeber's private papers indicate that his introduction of high academic standards, academic freedom, a racially heterogeneous student body, an end to bigotry and prejudice in the classroom and an attempt at ending corrupt political patronage's influence at the college resulted in opposition to him personally. According to the Board of Directors' minutes, this enlightened intellectual stimulation was not received well by disgruntled ex-faculty nor by the local Republican elite and eventually led to his resignation after six years.

Because of Rathgeber's higher academic standards, a larger percentage of graduates continued on to graduate school. The faculty grew from 67 to 104. The number of faculty holding doctorates increased by 70 percent. The library collection increased to 28,000 volumes.

Dr. Rathgeber was a leader in developing regional cooperation among area colleges. He was a trustee of the of the College Center of the Finger Lakes which included Elmira College, Alfred University, Hobart College, William Smith College, Corning Community College, Ithaca College, Keuka College and Mansfield State College.

Mansfield State College had not built any new dormitories since 1890. Rathgeber proposed building six. His building plan included the renovation of Retan and Belknap as classroom buildings. He proposed new athletic fields, new underground electric and heating systems, new heating boilers, a new water supply dam, field houses, a new gym, a music education center, a dining hall, an infirmary, and a student union.

He also oversaw construction of the Alumni Hall which housed the library. He had the Hut built, paid for the reconstruction or renovation of all 24 buildings on campus, increased the acreage of the campus and increased parking space.

The state legislature desired the removal of North Hall, but Dr. Rathgeber's extensive development plans prohibited the demolition until a time when a preservation movement was able to save the building. If Mansfield State College had not expanded, it may have been closed in one of the state's later budget tightening movements.

Rathgeber, at 35 and a bachelor, was one of the youngest col-



There are still people in Mansfield who remember when Dr. Lewis W. Rathgeber was president. He was a controversial figure who gets a lot of the credit or bears a lot of the blame for the Mansfield University of today.

lege presidents in the United States at the time. He earned his B.S. in education at Lock Haven State Teacher's College, and his M.A. and P.H.D. of History from the University of Pittsburgh.

He had been principal at Port Allegheny High School, a contact officer for the Veterans Administration, and the assistant to the Dean of Men and a history lecturer at the University of Pittsburgh before his tenure as President of Mansfield State Teacher's College. He served as the educational advisor to the chief chemical officer for the US Department of Army Chemical Corps. He also served as the director of the Bureau of Private Schools and Veteran Education for the Pennsylvania Department of Public Instruction.

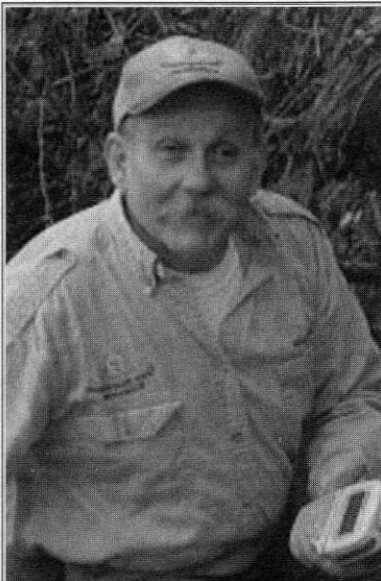
Rathgeber was active in the Pennsylvania Historical society and the fraternity Phi Alpha Theta. He served on the executive board of the General Sullivan Council of the Boy Scouts of America and the Tioga County Cancer society. He was a member of the American Legion, the Masons, the Moose Lodge, the Elks, the Lion's Club, and Kiwanis.

Through his extensive list of activities and organizations, Rathgeber is may have been the best educated, most rounded and most highly qualified president Mansfield University had up to that time.

Rathgeber was described by the trustees as a person of high

Rathgeber, Continued on

Page 11, Second column



Rathgeber made lasting impressions

Paul Otruba, Mansfield University, Class of 2007, knew Rathgeber. "As a boy, I helped to care for his dog. It is because of his influence that I am attending Mansfield University."

The days are gone when the President provided room and board for the less fortunate students. When Rathgeber

was president, the third floor of the president's house was full of students from the mid state coal region; students who would otherwise not have had an opportunity to attend college.

Rathgeber's dream of the university as a regional center for arts and sciences never developed. The art and theater programs at Mansfield University are beginning to slip away.

Rathgeber, Continued from Page 10

moral character, friendly, easy to work with and tireless. He had the contacts in the state and nation which helped to gain the faculty and the institution support in a period of lean resources.

One alumnus who remembers Dr. Rathgeber recalls his ability to remember every student's name and personal history. Rathgeber's concern for each student was noteworthy as was his support of and attendance at most of Mansfield's athletic competitions. Under Rathgeber, Mansfield became known as a basketball powerhouse: Mansfield's 1961-'62 basketball team was undefeated. At 18 and 0, it was one of the two undefeated college teams in the nation. In 1963-'64, the Mansfield team advanced to the National Championship.

Rathgeber also invited leading public figures of the day to speak at the college. Eleanor Roosevelt, Governor David Lawrence, Vincent Price and UN Ambassador James Wadsworth all traveled to Mansfield to speak. Dr. Rathgeber also initiated a fine arts festival and supported a regional science fair.

His development plans outlasted his six-year term as president by six years. His vision helped make Mansfield University what it is today. He set a great deal in motion despite limited resources.

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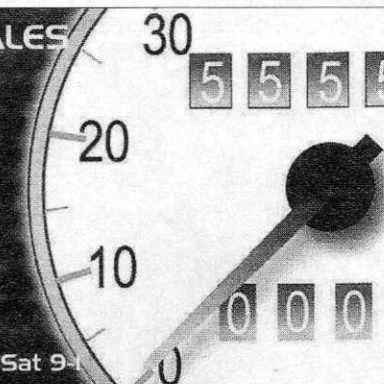
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Pride, Power, and Portable Privies:

Outhouses are no longer just a thing of the past

By Dan Ryan

When traveling off the beaten path one may encounter an abandoned outhouse. These buildings were once a staple of American life.

Once indoor plumbing was invented, outhouses were demoted to serving as scenery. As the years went by, outhouses fell apart, were disassembled or filled in.

The town of Dushore, Pennsylvania is about an hour southeast of Mansfield University. The townspeople of Dushore are proud to call the only red light in Sullivan County theirs. Dushore also has a lot of outhouses, though not exactly like the weathered ones seen elsewhere; these commodes are for racing.

Every summer Dushore honors its past with a Founder's Day celebration. The souped-up outhouses are hidden during the day while visitors attend dog shows, basketball tournaments, magic shows, high school band performances and a Roll-a-Keg race.

These events warm the audience up for the climax. When the dust from the Roll-a-Keg race has settled, fans gather along Main Street. The state police have shut Main Street to prepare for the final event of the day. The time has come. "The Outhouse Races" are about to begin.

Teams cart their chariots to the red light on trailers pulled by pickup trucks. Each outhouse belongs to a six-person team: one driver, one sprinter and four pushers. The driver takes a seat on the throne; the sprinter crouches next to the outhouse; the pushers grab a bar and prepare to push.

Dane Denmon, the captain of the Super Septic Suckers, makes sure his team trains for the event. "When the day of the race comes and everyone is watching, we unveil our outhouse. It gets your adrenaline pumping. It is that feeling that makes me push my team so hard in practice," Denmon said.



The "Revenge of the Turds" outhouse team pushes down the homestretch on their way to a second place finish.

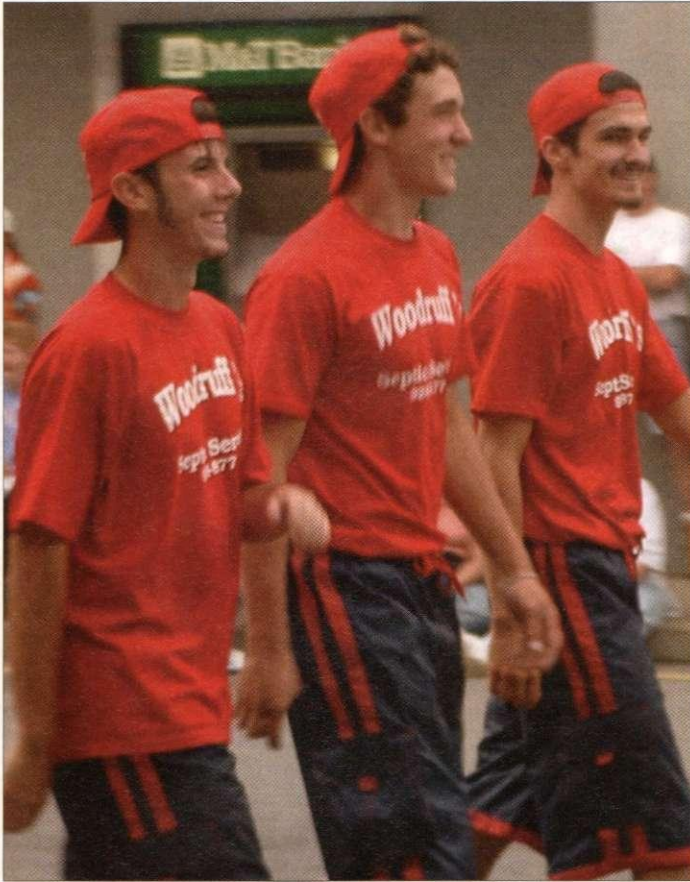
Before the race, outhouse teams stretch and check the wheels and pushing bars on their porcelain-predecessors one last time. Bystanders can see the tension between opposing teams as the pre-race ceremonies commence.

Two outhouses, accompanied by their respective team members, line up at the start-finish line. At the sound of a horn, the race commences. The excitement begins. The sprinters retrieve a roll of toilet paper located fifty yards from the starting line and deposit it into a bucket; this signals the runners to start. The race is one lap, down and back, of Main Street.

Some of these racing waste-stations fly off course and head in unexpected directions, forcing bystanders to move out of the way or try to stop the runaway john before it causes damage or hurts someone. Wheels have fallen off; pushing bars have been torn out; racers have been run over; and on one occasion an outhouse went airborne after hitting a bump going too fast. Mishaps like these make the race more than a normal lap around town.

Tim Brown, a resident of Sullivan County, has attended the event for the past several years. He comes because he enjoys watching the race. His children look forward to it all year. "Each year I come to the race. I haven't been disappointed yet. My kids love it as well. They ask me about it all summer," Brown said.

After eight years, the races have attracted the attention of local celebrities. Last year Tina Picket, District Representative to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and U.S. Senator Rick Santorum presented the trophies and posed for pictures with the winning outhouse racers.



Dushore's Tour de Toilette came close to winning a few times, but they have never captured first place.

Clint Decker, Dane Denmon, and Dan Ryan are members of the Super Septic Suckers. "The fans seem to really enjoy it and the teams definately do as well. I tell my teammates to think about the trophy while they are racing so they can have something to focus on rather than the pain of running." Denmon said.

The outhouse races begin at the sound of a horn. The first one to make a lap on main street and get back to the finish line is the winner. The event has become popular with the locals and attracts new people each year.



'Dasvedanya'

Mansfield University students and one professor prepare for a semester in Russia.

by Andrew Ostroski

It's the chance of a lifetime: to study in a foreign country, learning about new customs and cultures, experiencing new thoughts and ideas. Studying abroad, exchanging students with another university, and interacting with people from another part of the world is something that is encouraged of all college students at some point.

Mansfield University students, led by communications department professor Dr. Charles Hoy, are headed to Volgograd State University in southern Russia, near the nation's border with Kazakhstan, for the yearly exchange program between the two universities. Additionally, Mansfield will be welcoming a group of Russian students.

In 1995, then-university President Rod C. Kelchner signed a general cooperation agreement with Volgograd State University President M.M. Zagorulko ensuring a partnership between the two institutions. Since then, dozens of students have crisscrossed paths between the two universities as they proceed to learn in a foreign environment.

The main campus of Volgograd State University is located at the geographic center of the city. Volgograd is the city formerly known as Stalingrad, and has a deep history itself. It originated as a fortress on the west bank of the Volga River in the 1500s, and eventually blossomed into a city. Volgograd, known then as Tsaritsyn, was the scene of intense fighting during the Russian Civil War of 1918. It was renamed Stalingrad in 1925 after Bolshevik leader Josef Stalin. Stalingrad became an industrial city under Stalin, and during World War II was the scene of arguably the fiercest six months of fighting of anywhere in the war. Millions of soldiers and an unknown amount of civilians were killed in the battle. After the war, it was awarded the title of "Hero City."

Stalingrad was renamed Volgograd in 1961 by Russian Premier Nikita Khrushchev. Today, the city remains an industrial center for Russia, as well as a transportation hub, via the Volga River. Volgograd State University was founded in 1980, and today has nearly 11,000 students and 600 faculty members at eleven different locations. The university also plays host to many international and cultural events yearly.

Mansfield University students have been exchanging with Russian students for several years now. Dr. Charles Hoy is slated to be bringing students to Volgograd this fall.

Dr. Hoy said that now was the perfect time for him to give the study abroad program a try for himself.

"It seemed like the right time. Ever since I got (to Mansfield), I've been thinking about it," said Hoy. "It's a great opportunity. I've done a lot of traveling, but I've never been to Russia."

Hoy will be teaching while at the university, but it won't be too tricky for him.

"I'll be teaching in English," said Hoy. "I'll be teaching Russians, but I won't have to know Russian."

He doesn't know the specific classes which he'll be teaching yet, but Hoy anticipates they will be media involved.

Freshman Isaac Pragle is one of the students who is slated to be taking part in the study abroad program. He credits a Mansfield professor's encouragement with his want to study in Russia for a semester.



PHOTO FROM WIKIPEDIA.COM

The Mother Russia monument will greet Dr. Hoy and his students when they arrive in Volgograd.

"Dr. Bosworth has always said that there are three things that his majors should do: learn a foreign language, do an internship and study abroad," said Pragle. "It was never my intention to study in Russia. I figured I would always go some place that was warm. The whole trip to Russia kind of just fell into my lap."

Pragle added, "After talking with several professors and students who have done the exchange in the past and only had good things to say, I knew I was making the right choice to go to Russia. The most influential person in making this decision to go would have to be Dr. Bosworth who went on the exchange and has gone back several times since."

While largely unconcerned about the experience, Dr. Hoy stated that he still had some things that he knew he would have to think about.

"This isn't exactly like going on a two week vacation," said Hoy. "For three and a half months I'm actually going to be living there."

"I've started to try to learn some Russian, but of course they use the Cyrillic alphabet, which has 33 letters, so they don't correspond to a whole new alphabet. What am I going to find? What are my living conditions going to be? Things like that concern me, but I'll deal with that as I go along."

Pragle shares his concerns, but also is excited to experience

Russia.

"Russia has been through so much throughout its history from being a world super power and a communist nation to a young democracy trying to get a foot in the world and work towards becoming a powerful nation again," said Pragle. "To gain a different perspective on the world from these people who have lived through this all will be great. I'm excited to get out of Mansfield and gain experiences that I never could imagine gaining otherwise. As exciting as it is to go to another country I am a little bit nervous about it. English is not a first language for these people, and those who do speak don't understand a lot of it. It will just take some time to adjust and get used all of it."

Dr. Hoy, Pragle, and other students going on the trip will fly into St. Petersburg, stay there for several days, and then begin a 30-hour train trip to Volgograd. Upon leaving, they will tour Moscow before flying out. Students who participate in the program receive 15 credit hours, nine of which are in the Russian language. Tuition is paid regularly for Mansfield, which covers Volgograd, and the only other expenses they pay are their own personal expenses.

The students say "dasvedanya" to the United States early in the fall semester, and are scheduled to return to the United States in mid-December.

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Mansfield University sociologist travels halfway around the world to get off the beaten path

by Dan Mason

Dr. Tim Madigan has been teaching sociology at Mansfield University for seven years. He has also been teaching summers at the Central China Normal University since 2004.

Madigan has always been interested in China. He studied Chinese at Penn State, and started teaching English in Taiwan in 1989 where he met and married his wife.

Madigan teaches three sociology classes at the Normal University, "in English," Madigan said. "I'm only semi-fluid in Chinese."

The university sociology department has several hundred students. About thirty of them speak English. "They are a mix of undergraduate students and graduate students," Madigan said "mostly women."

The Central China Normal University is in Wuhan, along the Yangtze River in Hubei province, mainland China. The last Chinese revolution, against the Ching Dynasty, started in Wuhan in 1911.

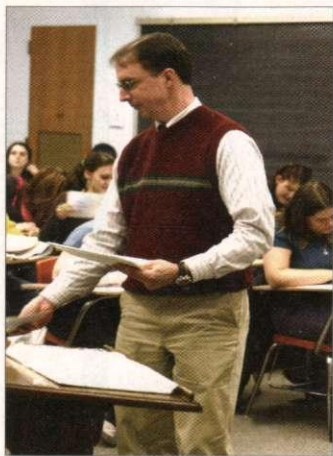
Madigan met a Chinese student at Mansfield and asked her if she knew of any opportunities to teach in China. "Her mother was in the provincial government," Madigan said. "She knew someone at the university."

Though Madigan was off the beaten path in Wuhan, China, he strayed even further afield while in country.

The Chief of the Bank of China invited Madigan to visit an ancient village about two hours north of Wuhan. "I thought it was going to be just the two of us visiting a little village. Instead he showed up with a tour bus full of bank employees," Madigan said.

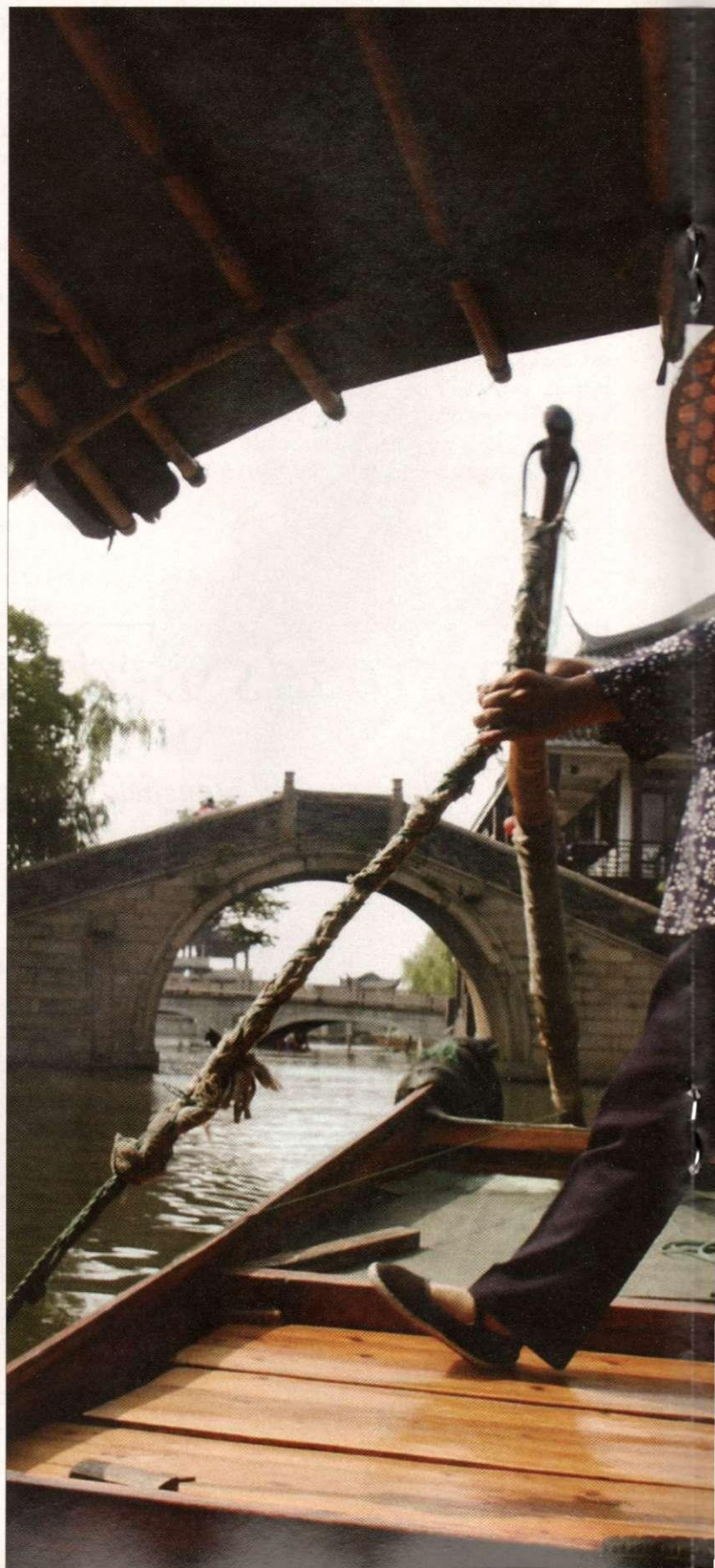
Madigan spent the trip conversing with the bankers. "It was a chance for them to practice their English," Madigan said. Madigan's other side trip was during a visit to his brother-in-law in Shanghai. "We visited Zhouzhuang, an Ancient Water Village," Madigan said. "Some people call it the Venice of China."

Anthropology students Zach Buck, James Frantz and Josh Owens accompanied Madigan on his six week sojourn off the beaten path in 2006.

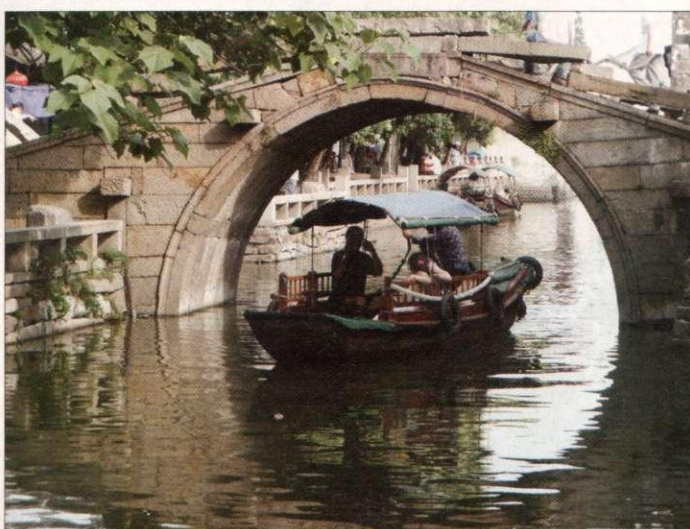
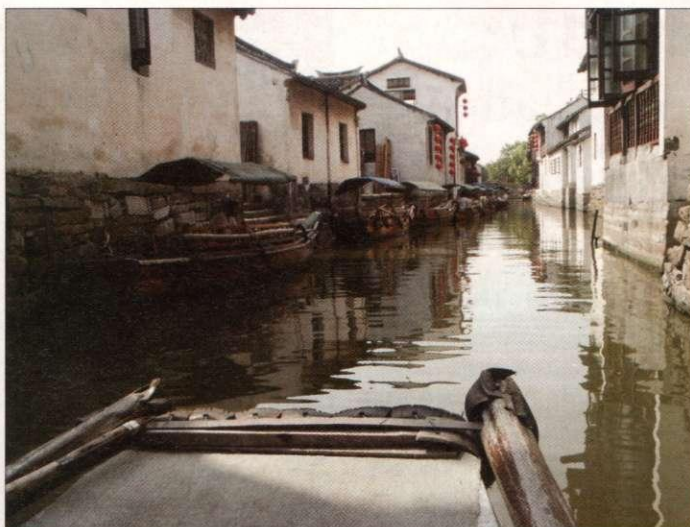
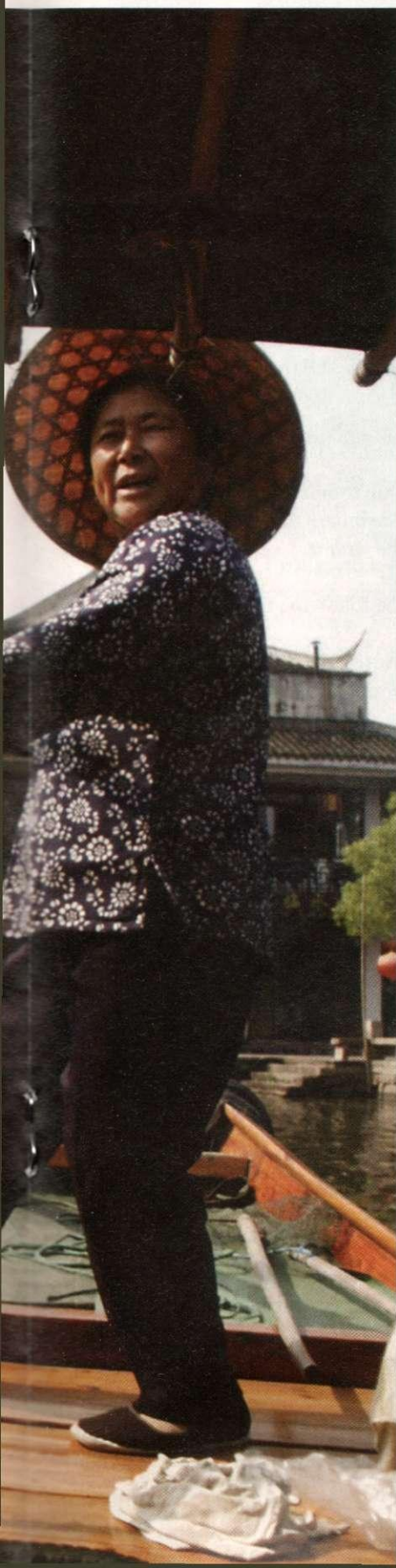


Dr. Tim Madigan has been teaching at Mansfield for seven years. He earned his Ph.D. in sociology at Penn State. To keep busy Madigan minored in statistics and studied Chinese.

Madigan spent two dollars on a boat tour in Zhouzhang. The boat was powered by one woman with an oar who serenaded the passengers while she rowed. To share her load, Madigan sang her an American song.



The picture on the right is the view from the front of the boat.



There are few American tourists in China. This Chinese tourist got to see more than he expected when he and Madigan crossed paths near the oldest bridge in Zhouzhang. The bridge is several hundred years old.

Madigan went to see the young couple below playing Huck Finn under this ancient bridge some two hours north of Wuhan. The bridge is in a tiny village. Its is hundreds of years old and spans about 100 feet.



Overheard at MU: Listening to people can become a great pastime

by Brittany Serafini

In our lifetimes we'll all say something stupid. The moment will come when the proverbial foot should be inserted into one's mouth.

Some people take this to a higher level. My fascination with the stupid things people say began in November 2006. I was eating dinner in Lower Manser when I overheard a group of college boys exchanging what I thought was an intelligent political discussion. Instead, I heard this:

College boy #1 – *"Did you hear that Fidel Castro was sentenced to death?"*

This might have been a legitimate statement had Castro actually been on trial. I wanted to say something like, "I do believe you have an ocean's difference in your dictators." However, I am a reserved person and let it go, but vowed that I would begin a crusade of laughing at people who say preposterous things.

I heard another stupid exchange in February 2007. I was walking by a room in my dorm when I heard a girl exclaim, "Oh my gosh! I can't believe she told me she wears a size four pants! There is no such thing as a size four!"

I thank these young women for setting feminism back 20 years. By way of clarification, size four jeans do exist...*in Europe.*

The most recent stupid conversation I've heard was early March 2007. Again, this was on my dorm floor (sensing a pattern?).

College girl #1 – *"Isn't Obama that terrorist guy?"*

College girl #2 – *"No, that's Osama."*

I'm not sure if this deserves comment. Any way this is examined, it's absurd.

I'm not the only person who has noticed an increase in idiotic declarations made by people. Andrew Ostroski, a senior at Mansfield University, heard this peculiar statement from a student in mid-February 2007. Granted, it was a sunny day, but the temperatures had yet to reach 30 degrees.

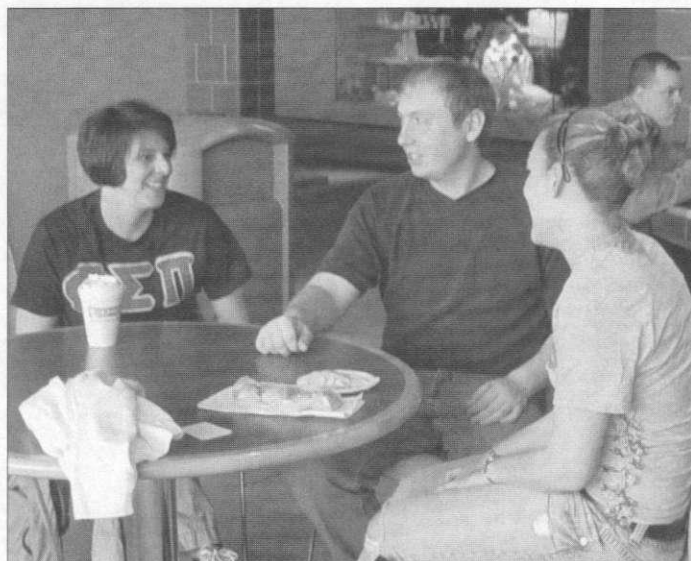
Global warming is a myth?

College girl – *"It's such a nice day outside. I think I'll go out and tan."*

Robin Oxley, senior, overheard this at dinnertime in Upper Manser.

Friends don't let friends pose for candid photos

College girl to college boy – *"I saw those pictures of you with those naked guys."*



Go ahead and laugh at people's blundered words, but remember that the blunder will someday happen to you.

Danelle Miller, freshmen, heard this gem in Upper Manser.

Will you still love me tomorrow?

Boyfriend to girlfriend – *"It's definitely not just your boobs. You've got a rockin' haircut to go with it."*

Laurie Pardoe, junior, overheard the following in the Maple Hall dorm.

Always use protection.

College girl – *"Don't use that water fountain. It has AIDS."*

Other overheard conversations like these have been posted on the internet. One popular site is *Overheard in New York* at overheardinnewyork.com. This site, which was created by S. Morgan Friedman and Michael Malice, spotlights colorful exchanges that occur between New York natives and tourists.

Friedman and Malice do not maintain this site to be hateful or highlight people's shortcomings. In an interview with *Gothamist*, a blog about everything to do with New York, Malice explained his reasons for keeping *Overheard in New York* around.

"I love this city and its people with a violent passion. What's unwritten about *Overheard in New York* is that if we're this stupid or obnoxious or silly, then what does that say about the rest of the country and the world? Because it is a given that those are places and the people who live there are our vast, vast inferiors," Malice said.

The fun of listening to people blunder their words is endless. It can boost your confidence when you realize that you must be smarter than these people.

The problem with overhearing stupid things is that it makes people reexamine what comes out of their mouths. That's not necessarily a bad thing. Lincoln reminds us that, "'Tis better to be silent and be thought a fool, than to speak and remove all doubt."

So keep your ears open. You might be present when someone else verbally goes "off the beaten path."

The Battle for Dreamland

a short story by Michelle Landis

They were chasing me. My body was screaming at me, telling me to stop running, but instinct told me I couldn't stop. I gasped for air with the little energy I had left. The steady footsteps behind me were relentless. Why couldn't I escape her? I neared the edge of Obsession Forest, eerie in its silence. As her footsteps grew closer from the distance, I held my breath and entered the dark woods. I could feel my heart pounding, forcing blood through my tired body.

"Hope, darling, you know you can't escape me." The tones of her sweet voice bounced among the trees, sickening me. I knew she wouldn't dare follow me, but I was afraid to stop running.

Suddenly, a branch of a tree reached towards me like a long, thin arm and tangled itself in the thickness of my golden hair. I struggled, but was unable to utter a scream from my burning chest. The tree laughed gleefully at my discomfort.

"I created you. Why are you doing this to me," I whispered. A single tear drifted down my cheek and I could no longer move. Sensing my sorrow, the tree released me and unfurled itself in the still sky above me. I lay panting on the soft earth and closed my eyes with newfound relief.

I am the slayer of nightmares. I was born in the midst of great turmoil when the land of Diamond was ruled by horrors that plague the dreams of humans. My parents, human in form with the blood of magic coursing through their veins, blessed me with the power of a destiny that has become my curse. Their hope and my destiny was to rid Diamond of a rule of terror in dreams.

Now, I was running from myself; my fear. I created my fear from the depths of my soul, which had become weak. She was my only weakness and the greatest protector of Diamond's nightmares. And I created her. I did this to myself. I was not strong enough to face her. She was part of me; the only part that could turn my heart to stone and use my sacred powers for evil.

Rustling amongst the trees startled me and my senses became alert once again. There were others. I had forgotten about them. I leapt to my feet and started running into the thick of the wood. A dark, hooded figure appeared before me and stopped me in my tracks. I turned the other way and found that I was surrounded. These were the figures of a child's nightmares. They fed on innocence and aimed to destroy it.

I withdrew the sword of joy from my red cloak and held it in front of me as the dark figures slowly closed in on me. I could

do this. I could defend myself and human dreams as long as Fear didn't catch me off guard.

"Hello Hope." Her voice, smooth as silk, made me tremble. She appeared before me as a ray of white light in a dazzling, jeweled gown. She turned to the hooded figures behind her and held up her hand. They stopped advancing towards me but waited. For a signal, perhaps? She turned her fiery eyes upwards and the trees obeyed a silent order, bringing their long branches towards me.

Obsession Forest was my creation, just as Fear was; both products of my weaknesses. I knew that only I could overcome them. I closed my eyes and felt the branches of Obsession trees brush against me, but only lightly. I knew that I was missing something. Something important. But what?

My mother, wise in the ways of magic and the world, often spoke of the path of Truth. I could defeat my greatest enemies by using the tools found at the end of this path. It was not a set path, but one that appeared in times of great need. I was not sure if I would be able to find such a thing in this dark forest developed from the darkness of my own soul. I opened my eyes and looked towards the ground, hoping that the magic my parents had blessed me with would have created the path that I most needed. I saw nothing.

Suddenly, I was lifted into the air by the long arm of a single branch as my sword clattered to the ground. The trees snickered and Fear stood beneath me, gazing upwards with her fiery eyes. "What will you do now, Hope. You're helpless." Her voice echoed, bouncing against the tall trees.

I felt my skin grow cold as the hooded figures floated in the air towards me. These were the evils I most feared. As my fear grew, the lady beneath me grew brighter. I was giving the Fear I created the strength to defeat me.

"Without fear, there can be no courage." The words of my mother echoed in my mind. The key found at the end of the path was courage. If I could create Fear, I could become Courage.

"I've had enough of this," I shouted towards the ground. "Release me." If my fear gave her power, I figured that courage would weaken her, even if I did not believe in it.

She laughed gleefully. "Did you not remember that I am part of you? I can read your thoughts, Hope. In fact, I can control them."

The hooded nightmares danced around Fear in delight. "Your end is near, Hope. Give up now." Her lips were not moving. The words were coming from the depths of my mind.

"No!" I shouted into the dark sky. I couldn't let this being that I created ruin me. I couldn't allow these nightmares to continue to plague the dreams of humans. Nightmares and fear create doubt and destroy truth and hope. My destiny was hope. But that destiny was dying.

My body weakened and the branches of my obsession released me. Both my obsessive quest to reach perfection and fear with little courage tumbled to the ground with me. I closed my eyes and accepted the blanket of darkness that surrounded me.



Artwork by John Philip

Odyssey of the Mind forces Mansfield students off the beaten path

by Paul Otruba

Pennsylvania has competed in the creative problem-solving competition, Odyssey of the Mind (OM) for more than a quarter century. OM was developed by Dr. C. Samuel Micklus, Professor Emeritus at Rowan University in New Jersey. The program provides and facilitates an opportunity for out of the box thinking.

Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program whose mission is to provide creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college.

Teams consisting of school and community members solve open-ended problems and develop imaginative thinking skills that can be applied to real-life experiences. The teams consist of five to seven members who prepare for competition for months.

Teams compete in one of five categories. The problems are either technical, artistic or performance oriented. The teams' solutions are scored by how unusual and creative they are, not necessarily on the solution's ability to function.



In 2006, this Mansfield Sea Scout team became the first Boy Scout team to compete in Pennsylvania. The Sea Scouts are open to boys and girls aged 14 through 20. This team consisted of two girls from Whitneyville, one girl from Elkland and one boy from Catlin Hollow.

The team has eight minutes to present their solution. This part of the competition is known as the "long-term solution."

The second part is called "spontaneous." Each team is given an impromptu problem to solve in a limited amount of time. This solution is also scored on creativity. Teams placing in the top two slots proceed to State Finals and from there to World Finals.

Tioga County competes in the North Central Region, the second largest OM region in Pennsylvania. Mansfield schools have belonged to Odyssey of the Mind

since the 1980s.

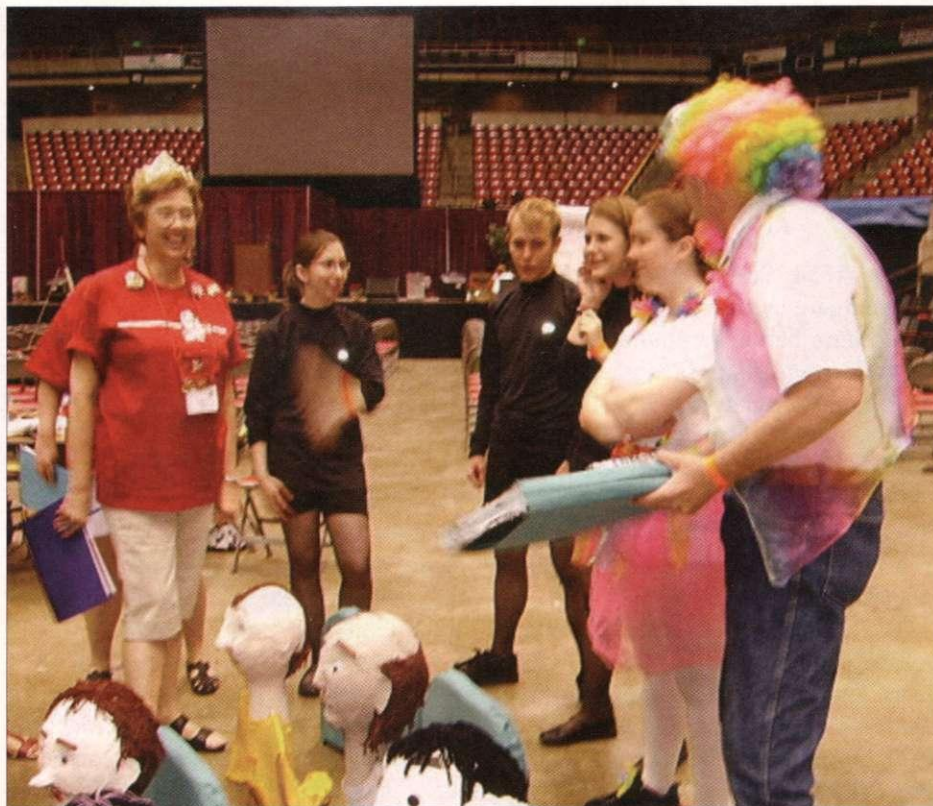
Teams from Mansfield High School competed at the World Finals in 2004 and 2005. Members from this team again competed at the collegiate level last year.

W.L. Miller Elementary School sent six teams to regional competition in Berwick this year. BSA Ship 2001 sent one. Wellsboro and Liberty also sent teams to competition. Two teams from Miller and the BSA Ship 2001 team from Mansfield will continue at the state level in April, as well as one team from Liberty and one team from Wellsboro. Mansfield also has

Right: This 18 gram tripod won the Ratanra Fufca award for the Mansfield BSA for ingenuity. It will need to support hold more than 600 pounds to take Mansfield to the World competition at the University of Michigan in Lansing.

Left: Amber Adams was a member of the 2006 BSA Sea Scout team that competed at the OM World Finals in Ames, Iowa. Amber is a junior math education major at Mansfield University. Her team's competition area was balsa wood.





Three Mansfield University students, one Millersville University student from Mansfield and one Juniata College student from Mansfield formed the first Boy Scout team to compete at world level Odyssey of the Mind. This Mansfield BSA Sea Scout Ship team competed in division 4 for university students at the 2006 world finals held at the University of Iowa in Ames. Almost 800 teams from all over the world competed. This Mansfield team took a third place bronze.



Division III Mansfield H.S. "Crazy Columns" team competed at the 2005 World Finals at the University of Colorado in Boulder. They won the Ranatra Fufca award at the Pennsylvania state competition for their creative presentation of their style of problem solution, which sent them to World competition. Six past members and the coach of this long standing team volunteered as judges at the Pennsylvania regional and state level competitions.



Karen Strange is the OM coordinator at Mansfield Miller Elementary School with the "I'm Only Thinking of You" team.

a collegiate team that will travel to World Finals in May.

Odyssey of the Mind was brought into the Southern Tioga School District under the auspices of Theresa Ritter, who ran the program in all six buildings of the district. Karen Strange facilitated this growing program at W.L. Miller for the past thirteen years. Until this year, Mansfield High School also competed in the competition. BSA Ship 2001 offers the experience through the venturing program for scouts 14 - 21.

Last year, North Central Regional Director Jerry Owens approached Mansfield University as the possible site for the 2008 regional competition. Mansfield teams may only have to hike up the hill to compete next March.



Nicole Saylor, right foreground, was on the Mansfield H.S. "Balancing Act" OM team at the 2004 World Finals at the University of Maryland. This year she is a freshman nursing major at Mansfield University and a member of the BSA team competing at the 2007 World's Finals to be held at the University of Michigan in Lansing.

The Lady and Her Menus:

Frank Buttles, Mansfield University, and the New York Public Library

by Andrew Ostroski with Steve Orner

Mansfield, Pennsylvania is not the most cosmopolitan place; it's hardly even the most stylish place in Tioga County. With its modest history as a small, college town, it gets by as a speck on the map. Mansfieldians drive the intersection of Main and Wellsboro Streets content with the anonymity that comes with living in small town America.

Nonetheless, the minds formed at Mansfield University have gone on to do great things. The tens of thousands of students who passed through the State Normal School, the State Teachers College, the State College and the University have done wonderful things. One of the earliest people to make her mark on the world was raised on North Main Street. She attended the Mansfield State Normal School and made her presence known.

Frances, known as Frank, E. Buttolph, is best known for her collection of menus.

Frank Buttolph was not a woman of great stature. She was not a subject of history books. When she graduated with the first class to graduate from the Normal school she became a woman of the world, a collector and "somewhat of a mysterious figure," according to the New York Public Library.

She was born Frances E. Buttles to Reuben P. and Amanda Buttles. Frances must have been born around 1844, although the 1920s census listed her birth

date in 1854. R.P. Buttles was a well-known figure in Mansfield. He was mildly eccentric but had a kind soul. Among his trades were stints as a gravedigger, a carriage maker and an inventor. He also held the unofficial title of doctor.

Buttles applied for patents on a beehive and a toolbox that would resemble the boxes of today. The Buttles family lived in a modest house north of Mansfield's main intersection.

The Mansfield Classical Seminary opened in January of 1857 with 105 students. Among these students was Frank Buttles. [one of the reasons we know the 1920 census to be incorrect.] The seminary burned to the ground four months after opening.

The seminary reopened November 23, 1859. The school became the Mansfield State Normal School in 1862. Buttles was one of fifteen students to graduate with the first class of the Normal School in 1866.

Buttles remained in Mansfield after graduation. She taught in one of the local schools. While her classmates spread around the state and the country, she remained in her hometown, but only for a short time.

Buttles made the first of the moves that would become common for her in 1869. She moved to Rahway, New Jersey to teach school there. She remained in New Jersey for a year. Between 1870

and 1875, she resided in Rahway, NJ; Manlius, Illinois; Wilmington, Delaware; and Tivoli and Brooklyn, New York. She taught students of all ages in each town. Buttles occasionally wrote to her friends and family in Mansfield.

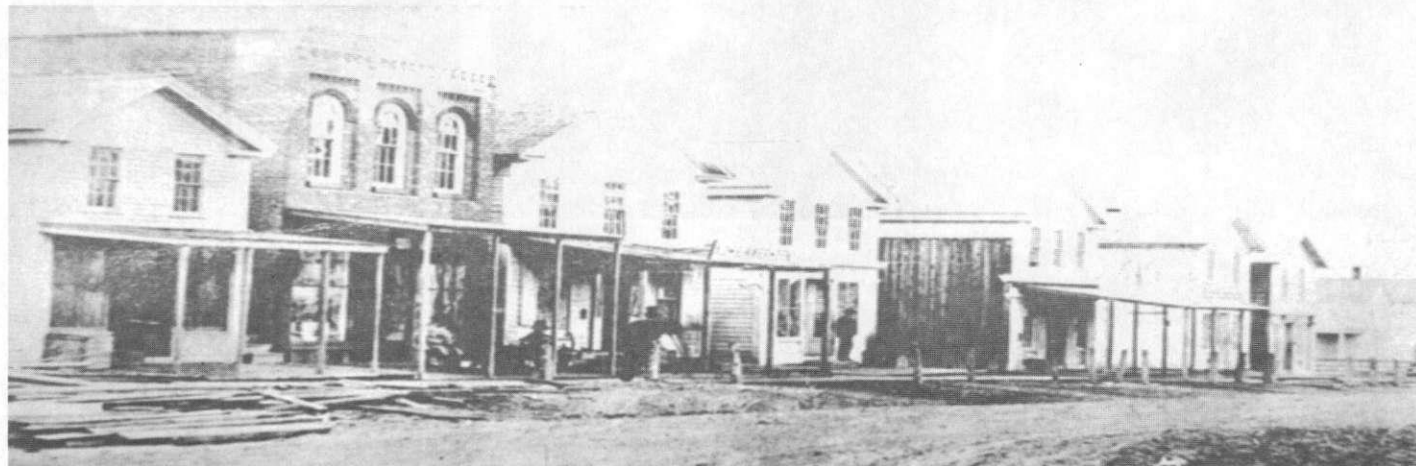
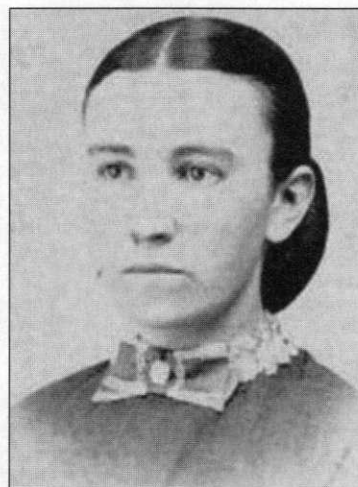
Buttles returned to Mansfield in 1878 to teach for two years. She left again in 1880 to go to Bolivar, Tennessee. She continued her teaching there and continued to write letters home. An account of her visit to Mammoth Cave was published in the Mansfield Advertiser on July 14, 1880. Buttles thought getting published was "in-describable," though she described it as "a dream when thought of in the sunlight."

Buttles left the United States and traveled to Germany in 1881. She learned German and taught English for two years. While abroad, Buttles continued writing of her travels and experiences and sending

Top right: Frances E. Buttles, in her graduation picture from the Mansfield State Normal School, 1866

Bottom: Main Street in Mansfield, looking north from the intersection with Wellsboro Street, circa 1866

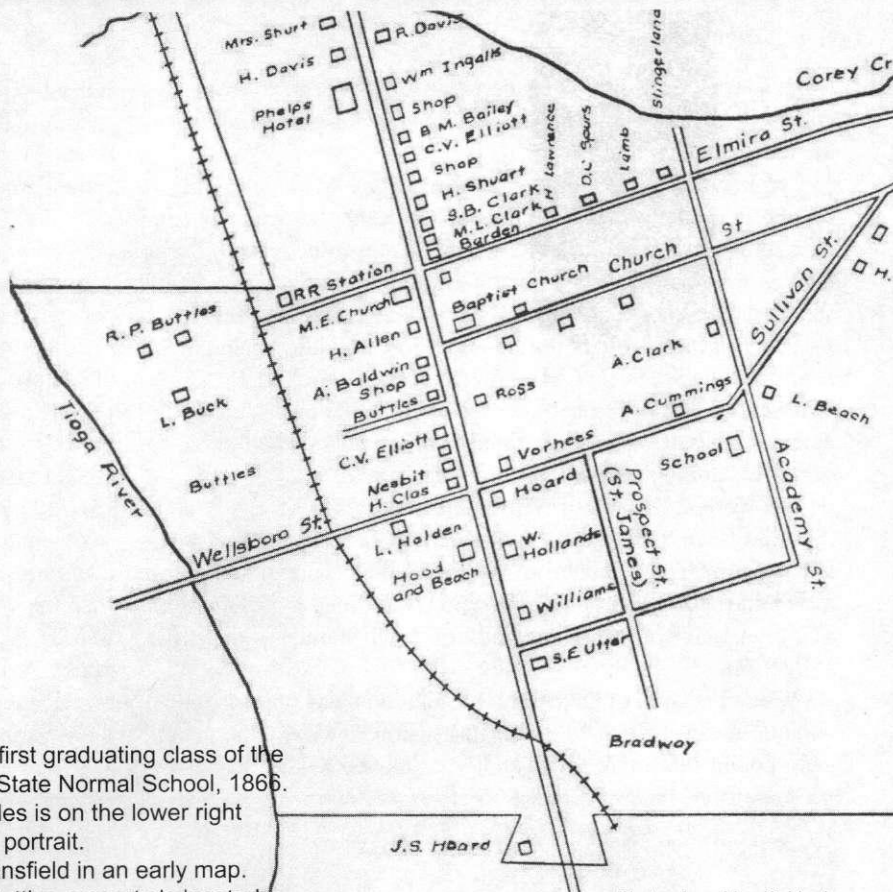
Photos from Mansfield.edu





Left: The first graduating class of the Mansfield State Normal School, 1866. Frank Butties is on the lower right side of the portrait.

Right: Mansfield in an early map. The R.P. Butties property is located toward the center of the map.



Photos from Mansfield.edu

letters to her home in the Appalachians.

In Germany, Butties experienced aspects of the good life. She writes of a grand gala involving members of German nobility including the German emperor, the Crown Prince, General von Moltke, future leader of the German general military staff, and "foreign officers of many nationalities," including Prince Albert of Prussia. She describes a grand event, with large bands, great fanfare and an extravagance unlike anything she'd seen.

After her travels in Europe, Butties returned to Mansfield. She taught at one of the common schools for three years. She wouldn't leave again until 1886, when she would teach again in New Jersey, this time in Matawan.

Butties' New Jersey school was across the Raritan Bay from New York City. In 1887, Butties began teaching in New York. Amanda Butties, Butties' mother, passed away in April, 1890. R.P. Butties died five days before Christmas, 1893. Her sister Permelia had died in 1875 in Minnesota from complications from child birth. Frank Butties found herself alone in the world. In the late 1890s she returned to New York City, this time for good.

Sometime around the turn of the centu-

ry Frank Butties developed an odd hobby. She started collecting menus.

Butties had always been a collector. The 1913 spring quarterly for the Mansfield Normal School referred to Butties as a "born collector." She donated 15 volumes of the Illustrated Christian Weekly to the Mansfield Normal School Library in 1899.

As for the menus Butties obtained her culinary lineups from wherever she could: restaurants, hotels, and even the occasional street vendor. She wrote to restaurateurs and hotel owners to request their menus. When the owners turned her down, she showed up in person to plead her case for one menu for her collection.

Some of the menus she gathered were decorated with watercolors; mini-masterpieces of landscapes, buildings, and the assorted portraits. Some were simple text with nothing to distinguish them.

From 1895 to the turn of the century, Frank Butties was a constant patron of the New York Public Library. She studied more literature and language. She became a close friend to the Public Library. She lived on Fifth Avenue, a few dozen yards from the main Astor Library, which is today the Humanities and Social Sciences

Library. She was teaching at that time as well, and she continued to collect menus.

It was around 1899 when the possibility of donating her menu collection to the library first came about.

The New York Times ran a short entry at the end of a story about a fund to purchase sociological books for the library on February 15, 1900. Two of the later paragraphs mentioned Butties "offered to give to the library a collection of a thousand hotel and restaurant menus." The article goes on to say that she had already given the library over 900 menus and that Butties wished that the menus would be sealed to be opened again in 50 years. Dr. John Shaw Billings, then the director of the New York Public Library, agreed to accept Butties' collection.

It is not known when Butties began her collection. The earliest menus in the archive date to 1850. Butties was not the only one collecting the cards. As word spread about the growing collection at the New York Public Library, thousands of menus were sent in from around the globe to be added to the collection.

Frank Butties changed her last name to Buttolph, the original surname for

Buttles in 1900. "Buttolph" is derived from St. Botolph from seventh century England. The Buttolph name was well represented in New York City and Boston.

Frank was the remaining member of the Mansfield Buttles family. It is likely that she changed her name to attempt to regain some attachment to her heritage. Whatever the reason, Frank Buttles was then known as Frank Buttolph, the name by which she would be known at the New York Public Library collection.

The Buttolph Collection amassed an astounding number of menus through the years. Mansfield Normal School's 1913 Quarterly said the collection had accrued over 26,000 pieces including menus from battleship fleets, royal family dinners, and thousands of fine restaurants and hotels around the world.

The New York Times revealed the contents of several menus that had been sent by the British royal family in London in 1904. Another newspaper article mentioned a menu sent from the Maharajah of Baroda, India who entertained the Maharajah Scindiya of Gwallor. Thousands of such menus exist in the collection.

Another section of the Buttolph Collection was sent across the Atlantic to the British Museum in London in 1904. The menus were bound into book form, and were moved to the British Li-

brary in 1977.

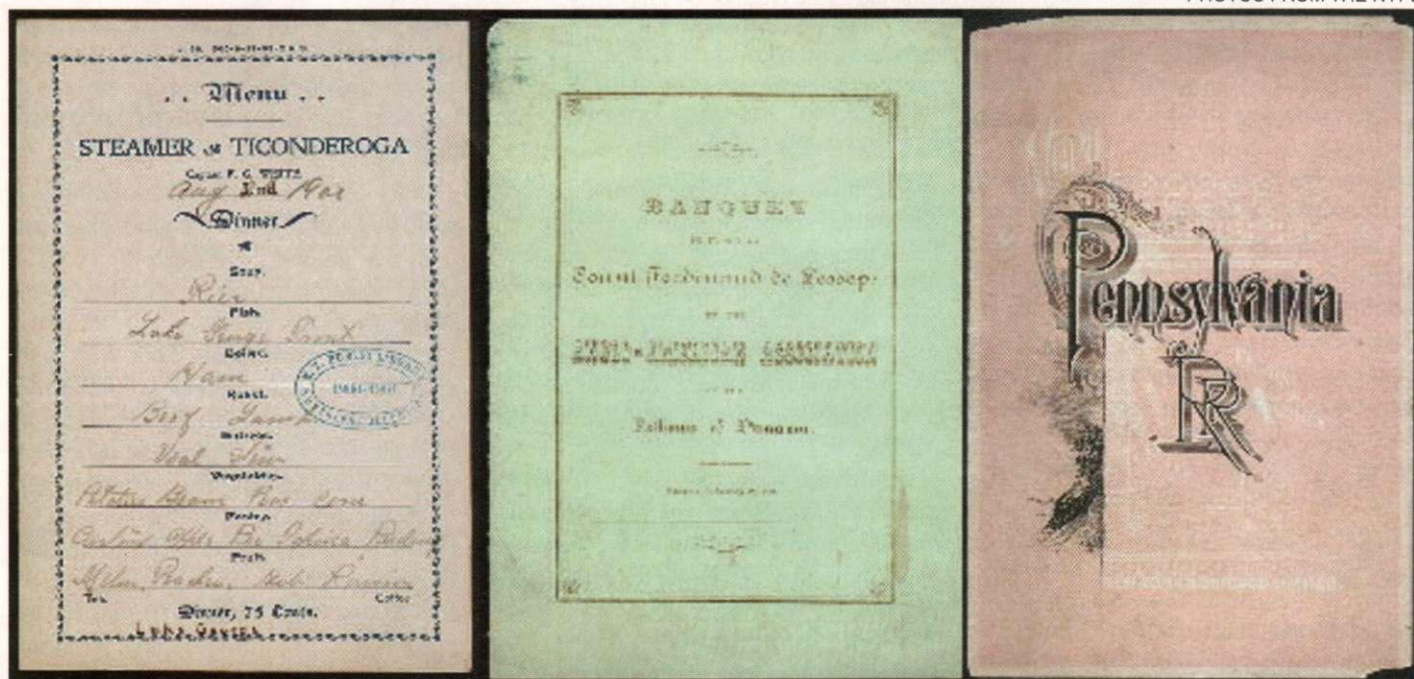
Frank E. Buttolph died from pneumonia on Wednesday, February 24, 1924 at New York City's Bellevue Hospital. She was around eighty years old.

When Frank Buttolph died, she left the 26,000 menus in the collection, six boxes of correspondence pertaining to her search, and a bevy of questions. She was listed in several federal censuses as several different ages, and was also listed as male. The New York Public Library, and several authors who have written about the collection, have had difficulty discovering Buttolph's past. Her life was as a mystery.

This year, Mansfield University and the Borough of Mansfield are celebrating their 150th anniversary. Frank Buttolph played an integral part in the history of the school and the town.

A small town girl, Buttolph conquered the world. She graduated as a member of the first State Normal School graduating class, then made her mark. A brilliant mind, a strong will, and a want to learn led Frank Buttolph around the world and into the history books. A woman from Mansfield, Pennsylvania is responsible for one of the most substantial collections in the greatest library in the world.

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Photos from NYPL

A History of Food, An Advertising Tool, and An Aid to Modern Science

In the years since her death, the Buttolph Collection has been a celebrated part of the New York Public Library. Recently the collection was been placed online for people to visit on the internet. More than 5,000 menus were scanned and displayed in an NYPL database. Some menus have been enlarged and displayed to promote restaurants in still in business in New York City.

The Buttolph Collection has even been useful to the world of science. Recently oceanographers have used the menus to research the types of fish being served. This gives them some idea of the fish species in the oceans a century ago.



Photo by Pascal Bernhard

The New York Public Library, the Astor Library where Frank Buttolph's menu collection was stored, was less than a block from her apartment. The collection can now be found in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library.

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Back to School:

Nontraditional students walk off the beaten path of education

by Katie Keough

Worrying about a child or spouse is years away for most college students. For others it is an everyday concern as more and more nontraditional students are popping up at our country's universities.

A nontraditional student is an adult who returns to school, full or part-time, while maintaining such responsibilities as job, family and other "joys" of adult life.

Nontraditional students have things to worry about besides their grades, but these students are motivated and driven, perhaps because of their other responsibilities. Some return to school because they want a better paying job, or their job requires them to have a higher level of education.

Melanie Cirbus, a New York state high school teacher, was a nontraditional student. Her high school guidance counselor suggested she try a business school. "I did not go to a four year school or even a two year school. I had a guidance counselor who said I was not 'college material.' I went to business school but hated it. I left because I couldn't get a loan to keep going," she said.

She and her boyfriend moved up their wedding date and got married. They started a family. Cirbus went back to school when her children were in high school.

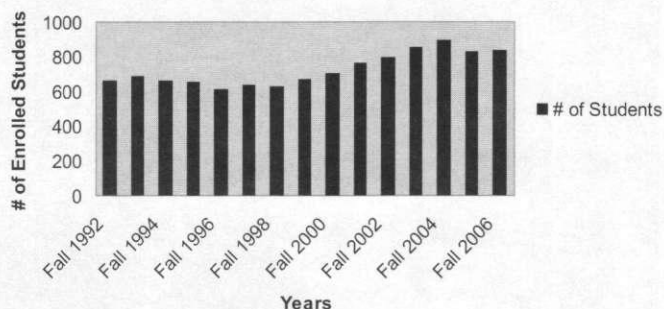
"I was at a job that I didn't like. I wanted to work with teenagers," Cirbus said. "My own kids were getting older and the thought of them leaving me and not having any kids around was depressing so I decided to try it. I started off at Broome Community College and finished my bachelor's at SUNY Cortland."

Cirbus continued her education so she could find a job she'd enjoy working – just as many nontraditional students do. Some go back because they don't like their original career choice. Cirbus knew she wanted to work with teenagers so she began her journey to getting a bachelor's degree in education. She had to work while going to school.

Cirbus said that the most difficult aspect about being a nontraditional student was the pressure she felt. "The hardest part was trying to juggle everything. I always felt guilty," she said. "If I spent time on school, I was neglecting my children; if I spent time with the kids I was neglecting my school work. It was a constant struggle. I worked at an EAP – Employee Assistance Program – as an account executive and the president's assistant. It was a lot of responsibility but I managed."

For nontraditional students with families, cooperation and understanding is important. "My family was supportive," Cirbus said. "However, there were a couple of times I went off on all of them. Trying to study and having it remain quiet can be difficult in a family setting. I tried to do my studying at the library and my husband helped a lot around the house."

Nontraditional Students at Mansfield University



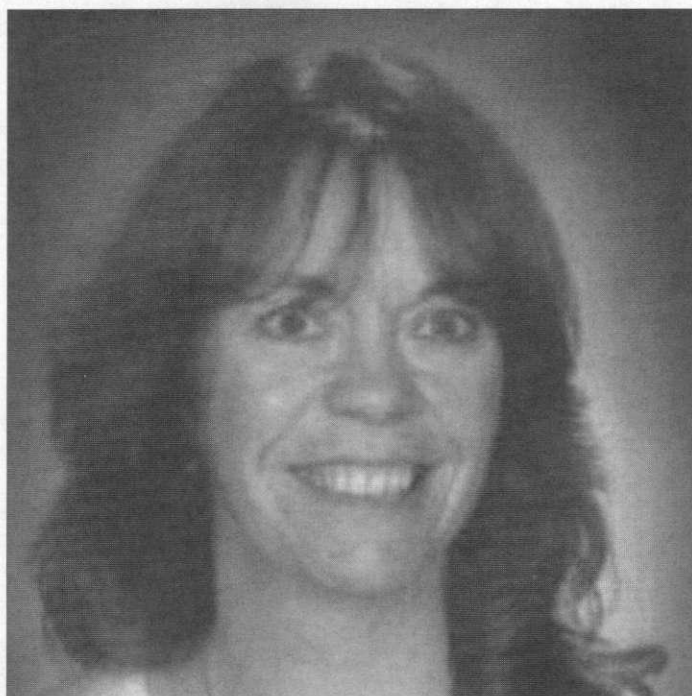
According to Mansfield Factbook 2004-06

For many nontraditional students, worrying about housekeeping, raising the children, working and studying can cause lots of stress. Some nontraditional students can get help from a spouse who will help with chores and pick up the children, but many nontraditional students are single parents.

Mansfield University has 836 nontraditional students in the undergraduate and graduate programs this year. There has been a steady increase among nontraditional students since 1992.

Returning to school was Cirbus's greatest achievement. "I am now reaping benefits because of it. I'm doing something I love," she said.

Nontraditional students encounter bumps in the road to their degree, but it is always worth it when they complete their schooling to work at a job they love or to support their family.



After graduating from SUNY Cortland, Melanie Cirbus began teaching at the high school level. Melanie is teachwa history and economics at Owego Free Academy in Owego, New York.

Think the Hills of Mansfield are Tough?

Try this on for size!

by Toby Motyka

We agreed to meet in Lower Manser Dining Hall around 11 a.m. on Friday, March 2. We didn't say how we'd recognize each other; that was unnecessary. Even though we had never met, there was no need for specifics. Jessica Ibanez would be on crutches, a sight hard to miss on the small campus of Mansfield University.

I saw her shortly after 11 a.m. She was picking up a Mountain Dew, leaning on her crutches while getting her student I.D. card ready to scan. She had plenty of experience multitasking with her crutches. After she purchased the Mountain Dew we introduced ourselves, then sat down at a table, and she shared her story with me.

Four years ago she had a blister on her foot which lingered too long. The resulting infection spiraled out of control and has caused her problems since her early high school days. Once I had a splinter in my foot which became infected before it worked its way out. After hearing Ibanez's story, I felt as if I had escaped with my life.

As a result of the infection, Ibanez spent the past four years crutches or in a wheelchair for months at a stretch, although she's been wheelchair-free for a year now. "In a way, it's easier to use a wheelchair," Ibanez said. "It's a lot easier to keep weight and pressure off my foot." Currently, she is back on her crutches because of another sore on her foot, one more problem for this Mansfield freshman.

Ibanez has had about ten surgeries since the initial infection became a problem. They have ranged from minor to extremely serious and painful. The worst of the surgeries, according to Ibanez, was a skin grafting procedure. Because of complications, doctors had to repeat the surgery, making an already brutal procedure even tougher.

Getting from point A to point B is not easy on crutches. Ibanez has had to learn how to get around the hills at Mansfield University. The campus is not handicap friendly. The Pennsylvania hills roll high and low and high again as far as the eye can see. Sharp ascents and steep declines reign supreme at Mansfield.

On the plus side, Ibanez can taxi herself around in her car. Unfortunately, handicapped parking outside academic buildings can be as hard to find as a flat stretch of land. Sometimes, when no parking is available, Ibanez will park illegally to avoid a difficult climb up one of Mansfield's many hills. "Yes," she said. "I sometimes get tickets for parking illegally, but as soon as I get to Doane and appeal my ticket, they're pretty good about understanding where I'm coming from and taking the ticket away."

As for general parking, Ibanez doesn't have to deal with what other freshmen are forced to endure, the climb up "Cardiac Hill." Underclassmen have their choice of parking at the top of the hill or the giant lot on the other side, referred to by students as "East BumbleF@%!". Ibanez is allowed to park in the narrow employee parking lot behind Laurel, where she lives on the first floor. That makes each trip to and from class a little easier.

For the most part Ibanez gets herself to class without any outside assistance, choosing to go at it alone rather than leave a little

earlier than normal and have a friend accompany her to class. When she does need help, people on campus are willing to hold a door or give her a hand as needed.

Things get a little harder for Ibanez once she steps out of her car. While most buildings on campus are easy to reach and navigate, one presents more problems than the others. "For the most part the campus isn't too bad," she said. "Out of all the buildings, Butler is the least accessible. I have a friend who is sick and has to ride the service elevator, which is loud and embarrassing to use."

When the weather gets messy, things can get interesting. The February blizzard that dropped over two feet of snow in Mansfield shut down the entire town. Classes, clubs, sports and all other events were cancelled for the day. Ibanez still managed to go out amidst the un-shoveled sidewalks, five foot tall plow piles and sharp winds. Her crutches have small spikes on the bottom, her own pair of cleats.

While getting to class isn't a problem for Ibanez when her health is under control, her multiple surgeries and the resulting complications have forced her to miss a significant amount of time. She missed a lot of school last semester because she was on intravenous medication.

Missing a few days of class can be difficult enough for any student, but missing weeks at a time is enough to overwhelm anyone. Ibanez was able to make it through a fifteen credit schedule, passing each class, though one teacher gave her a bit of a scare. "Almost all of my professors understood, but one didn't think I would be able to keep up," Ibanez said. "This particular professor recommended I dropped the class, but I decided to stick with it, and passed the class without too many problems."

The transition to college was made easier by her life in high school. Ibanez is from Kearny, New Jersey, just a short distance north of Newark and west of New York City. She sustained the injury when she was a sophomore. Because of the injury, she was unable to have any classes above the first floor. All in all she says high school wasn't bad, and the time she spent learning the ropes on crutches then has made it easier for her to be on them now.

When talking to Ibanez, one thing was apparent to me. At no point during our interview did she appear to feel sorry for herself or think of herself as the victim of an unfortunate series of events. Not once did she flinch before giving an answer to any of the questions I asked. She gave the impression that she had accepted the way things are and the way they will be.

After we concluded our interview, I offered to walk her back to her room. It was a short walk down the ramp from Manser, across the street, through the doors of Laurel and to the right. I carried her half-empty Mountain Dew, held a couple of doors and enjoyed some conversation about our hometowns and how we came to choose Mansfield. She didn't need me to give her a hand, but after meeting her it was something I wanted to do. Anybody would do the same. Ibanez is dealing with a difficult situation with grace and bravery, living her life off of the beaten path.

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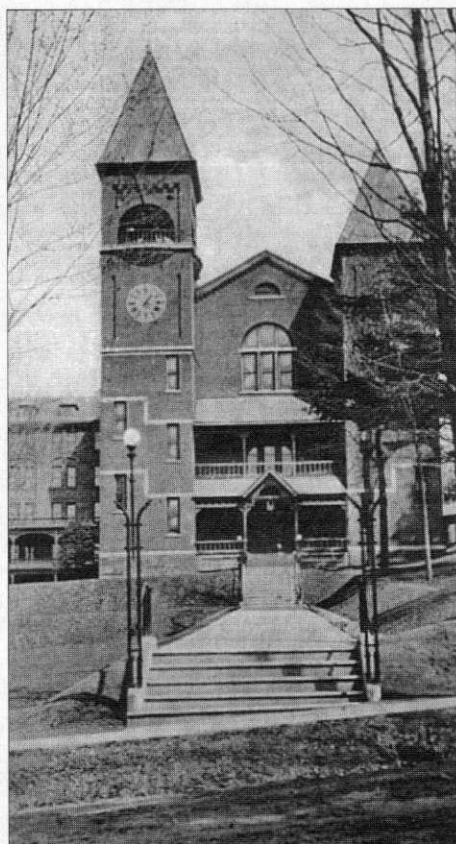


Together

Mansfield University has long had a relationship with the Borough of Mansfield

- January 7, 1857 - Mansfield Classical Seminary, built by the people of Mansfield, opened its doors to 105 students
- February 13, 1857 - Mansfield village incorporated as a borough.
- April 22, 1857 - The Mansfield Classical Seminary burns to the ground.
- November 23, 1859 - After the Seminary is rebuilt, the doors are reopened to 30 students.
- December, 1861 - A support dinner is held in the Seminary dining hall for the Tioga Mountaineers on the advent of their departure to the Civil War.
- December, 1862 - The Mansfield Classical Seminary becomes Mansfield State Normal School, the third normal school in Pennsylvania's 5th district.
- 1866 - 15 students comprise the first graduating class of Mansfield State Normal School.
- 1879 - North Hall, the ladies dormitory is constructed at a cost of \$15,000.
- The first Great Mansfield Fair is held in Smythe Park in
- 1886 - Alumni Hall is built between North Hall and South Hall at a cost of \$25,000.
- 1888 - The second gymnasium is built at the Normal School.
- 1891 - The first school band is organized.
- Construction of the north and central wings of North Hall are started.
- September, 1892 - Electric lights installed in Smythe Park for the first night football game in history between Wyoming Seminary and Mansfield State Normal School during the Great Mansfield Fair.
- Thanksgiving dinner is served in the new 500 seat dining hall the north wing of North Hall.
- 1897 - Electric lights are installed in North Hall.
- 1927 - Mansfield State Normal School becomes Mansfield State Teachers College and the title of "principal" is changed to "president."
- 1960 - Mansfield State Teachers College becomes Mansfield State College.
- 1983 - Mansfield State College becomes Mansfield University.

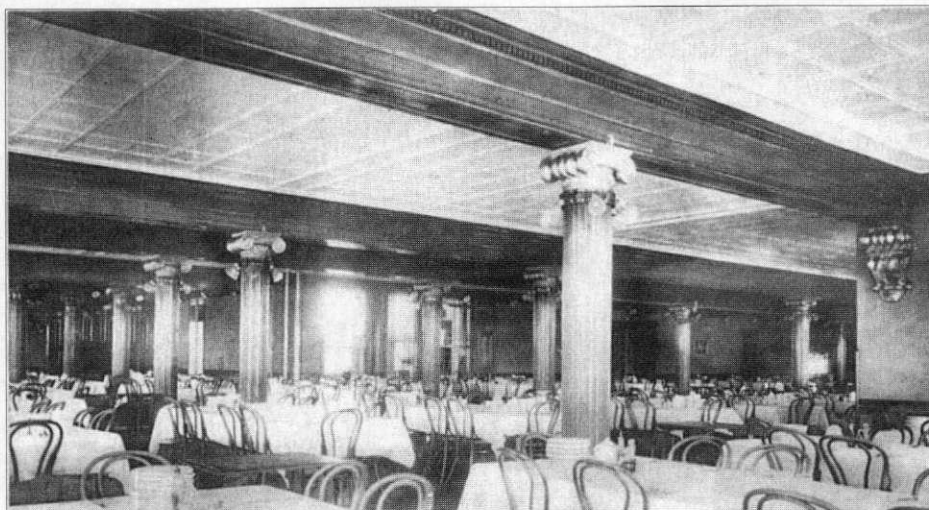
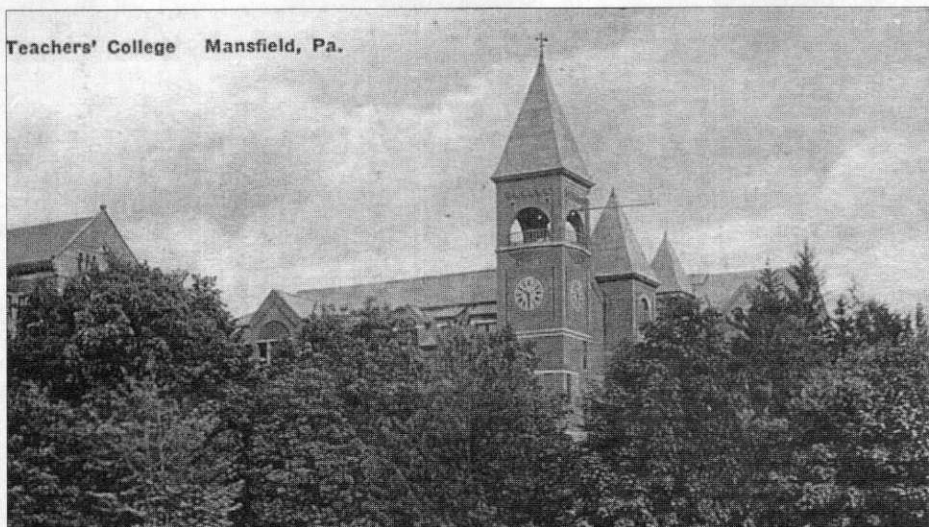
The first Alumni Hall had a clock tower. When the building was replaced by the current Alumni Hall, the clock works were sold to an antique dealer. The bell from the tower is on display at the north end of Memorial Hall.



Mansfield University grew in the 1950s and '60s. The grand stair cases, sweeping lawns and wide sidewalks were sacrificed to make room for new buildings. Memorial Hall now stands where the second set of stairs was.

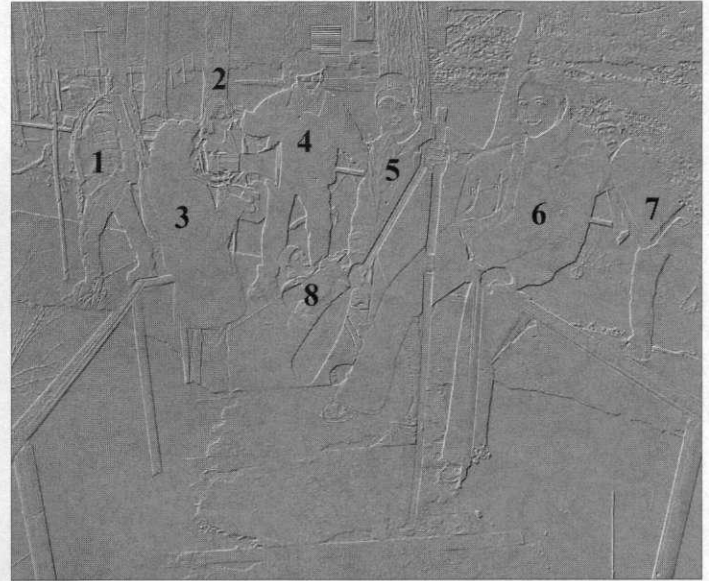
Mansfield University did not eschew the body for the mind. Physical education at the gym was part of campus life.

Teachers' College Mansfield, Pa.



North Hall was Mansfield Normal School's women's dorm. The dining hall was on the ground floor. Students dressed for dinner. Faculty mingled with students at dinner at least once per week.





- 1 Paul Otruba
- 2 Michelle Landis
- 3 Brittany Serafini
- 4 Dan Mason
- 5 Andrew Ostroski
- 6 Kate Keough
- 7 Dan Ryan
- 8 Toby Motyka

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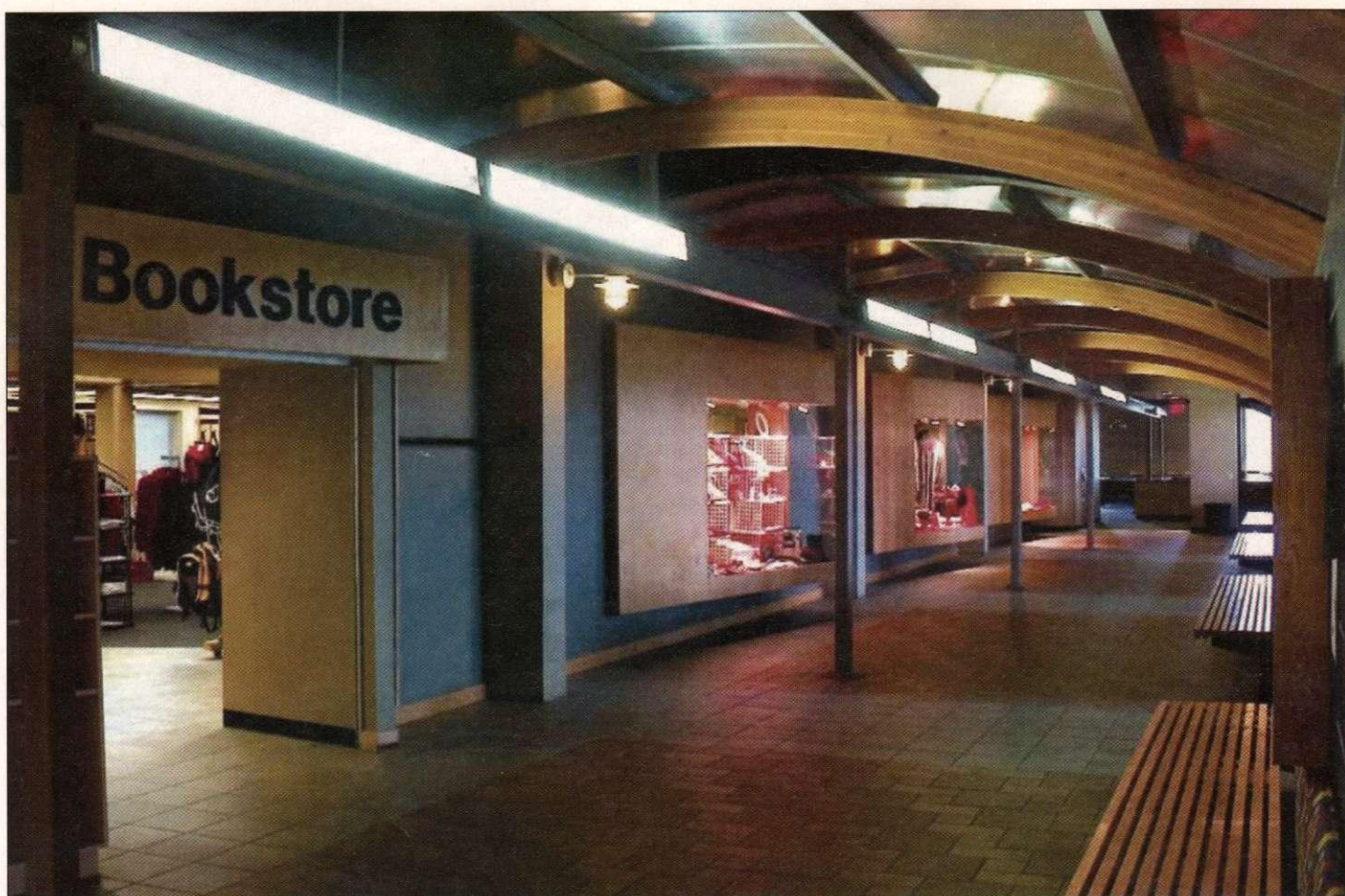
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